

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 20, 2001

Anthony J. Principi
Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20422

Dear Secretary Principi:

We, the members of the New England Congressional Delegation, are writing this letter to request a meeting with you at your earliest possible convenience to discuss the future of veterans' health care delivery throughout the New England region.

As you know, numerous press accounts have circulated throughout our districts which speculate that budget cuts at the Department of Veterans Affairs could result in the elimination of vital services or the possible closing of medical centers. We have heard directly from the veterans in our districts who fear losing the health care services that they need.

We are disturbed by these accounts and request an opportunity to meet with you and the directors of the New England region before any changes to the veterans health system are implemented. We look forward to working with you to ensure that critical health care services are readily available to New England's veteran population, and look forward to hearing from you soon.

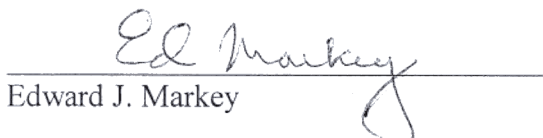
Most sincerely,



RICHARD E. NEAL
Co-Chairman
New England Congressional Caucus



CHARLES F. BASS
Co Chairman
New England Congressional Caucus



Edward J. Markey

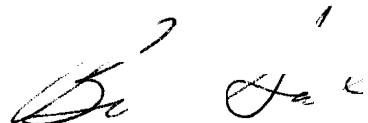



Barney Frank



Nancy L. Johnson



Christopher Shays

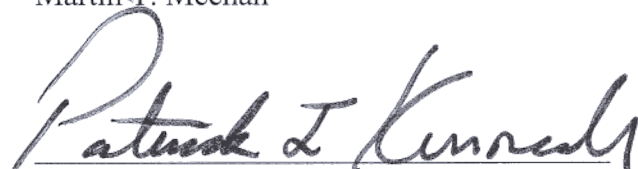

Rosa L. DeLauro


Bernard Sanders


John W. Olver

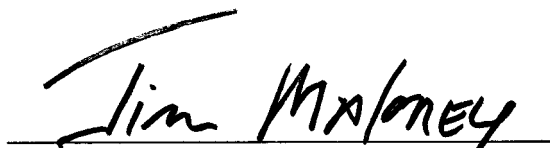

Martin T. Meehan


John Elias Baldacci


Patrick J. Kennedy

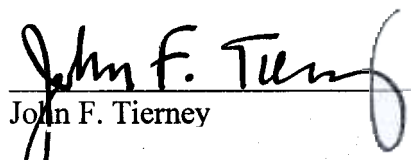

Thomas H. Allen


William D. Delahunt



James H. Maloney


James P. McGovern

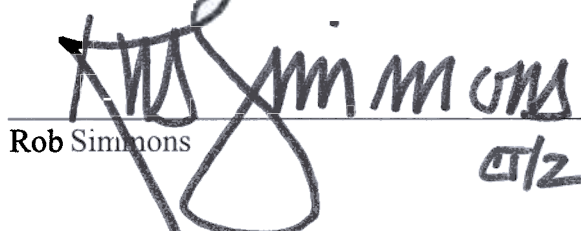

John E. Sununu

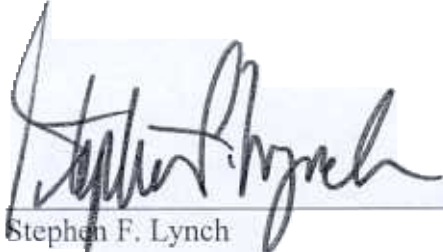

John F. Tierney


Michael E. Capuano


John B. Larson


James R. Langevin


Rob Simmons
CT/2

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen F. Lynch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. It is positioned above a horizontal line.

Stephen F. Lynch